

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4842

### 1. Name

Historic 505 – 509 North Bradford Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 505 – 509 North Bradford Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check One**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check One**

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of three two-story, two-bay wide vernacular Queen Anne-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal and stepped-brick cornices were built c. 1895, after the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, because of the potential fire hazard. This decorative brickwork, as well as the wide first floor window with paired sash, represents a vernacular translation of high-style Queen Anne designs first seen in Baltimore rowhouses c. 1880. All of the houses originally had dark red, painted brick facades, but now they are covered with formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, 13' wide and occupy lots 50'9" deep. Each house is only two rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in common bond and were originally painted a dark red; now they are covered with formstone. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The shed roof was capped by a sheet metal cornice set above a simple pattern of stepped-back bricks, but these are now obscured by the formstone covering.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums. The sills are wood. The houses have Queen-Anne-style paired first floor windows, a way to provide the increasingly fashionable wider first floor window before plate glass had become either available or affordable. Second floor windows have 1/1 sash. The houses probably originally had Arts-and-Crafts-style doors, with their long, narrow glass panels and short square and rectangular panels set above and below, all framed with molding strips, but doors are now modern replacements. Doorways have single-light transoms. The houses sit on high basements lit by a wide sash to match the width of the first floor window. Each front door is reached by four or five concrete steps.

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## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1895

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of vernacular Queen Anne-style houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. It is particularly interesting as showing the way in which the high-style form of the wide, paired first floor window, seen in expensive Queen Anne-style houses first built in Baltimore in the 1880s, was translated for use in small two-story houses on narrow streets a decade later.

The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

Most of the houses sold to mainly German-American semi-skilled tradesmen and laborers employed in nearby factories, who received mortgages from a variety of local building and loans, many of them sponsored by the German community.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

Name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

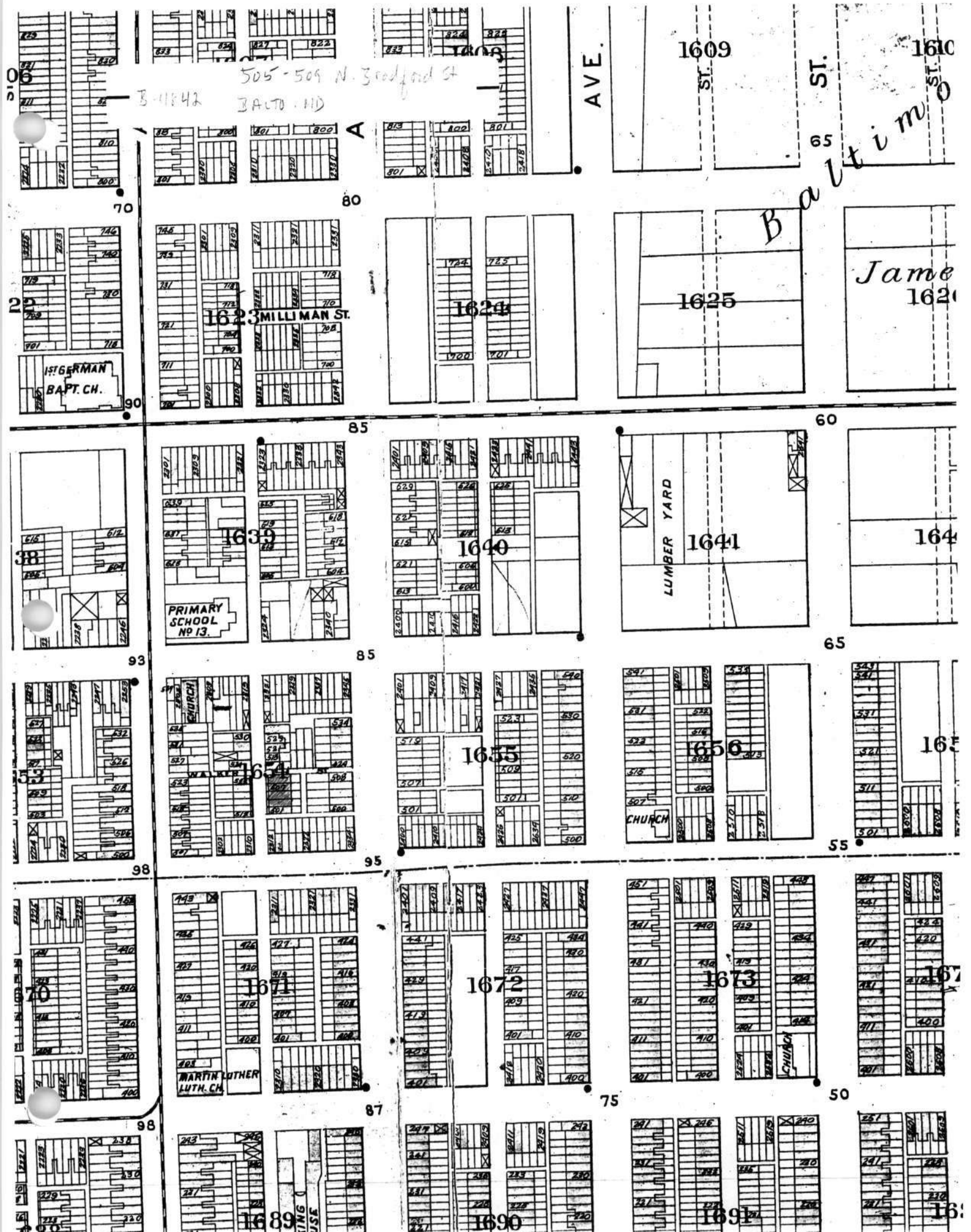
Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

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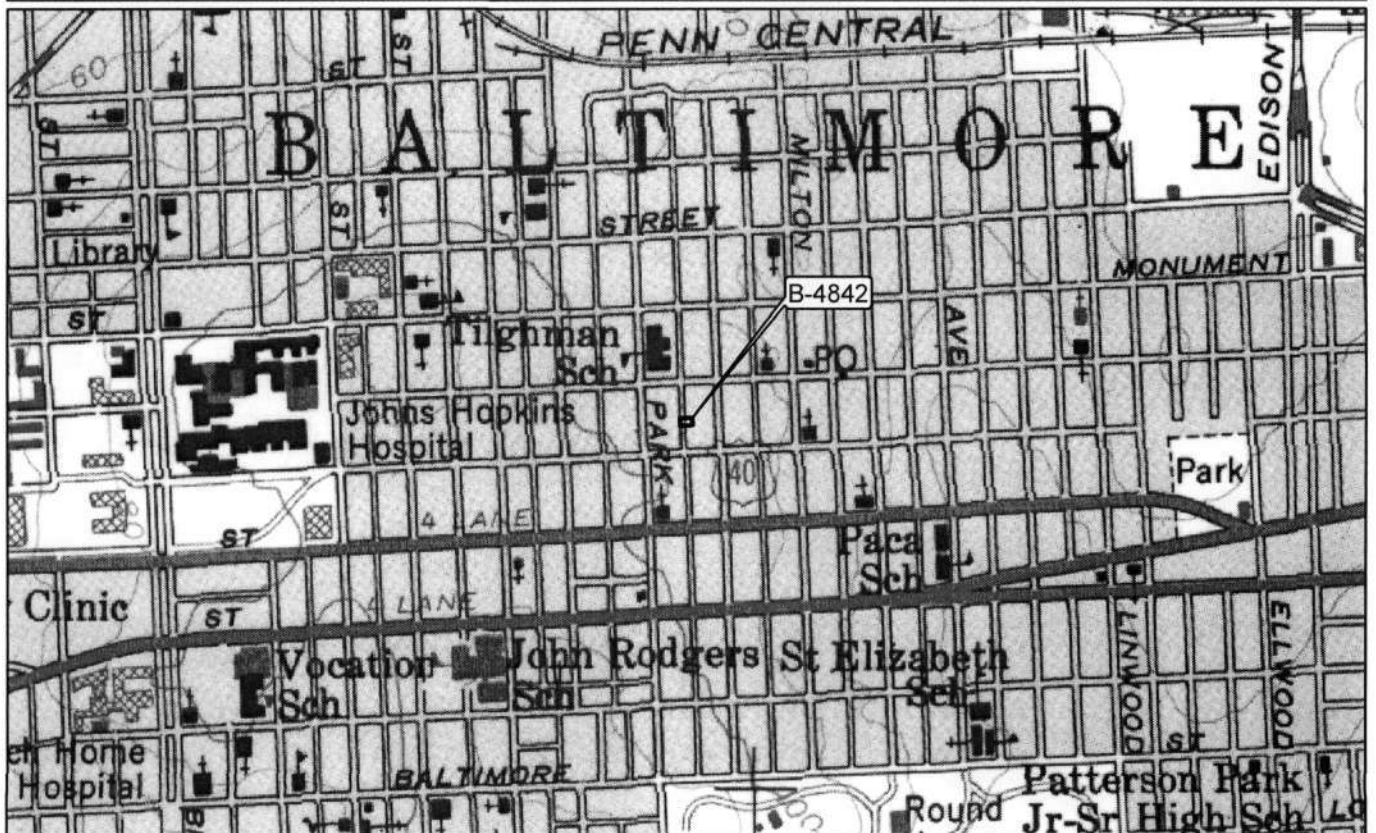
100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023





B-4842  
505-509 N. Bradford Street  
Block 1654, Lots 084-086  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





B-4842

505-509

W. Bradford Sr.

BACTO. MD

M. Hayward

6/00

MD SHPO

1/1